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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Construction Work on the Laipin-Chennankuan Railroad

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1. The central engineering office of the Laipin (109-16, 23-42) - Chennankuan (106-41, 21-58) railroad was established on 1 October at Liuchou (109-16, 24-18)*. The office is staffed with about 300 persons headed by LIU Chen-huan (劉震寰) and HIAO Tsung-wen (高宗文). This office is composed of ten engineering teams, three track-laying teams, three engineering signal teams, and three bridge engineering teams. It has been provided with one division of guards from the Railway Army Group.**
2. The Laipin-Chennankuan railroad will be 420 kilometers long and will have 35 stations. Engineering work has been started along the entire route. The roadbed is being laid by conscripted civilians. Twenty-three thousand are working on the section between Laipin and Nanning (108-18, 22-48). Seventeen thousand are working between Nanning and Chennankuan***. In addition to civilians, French Army captives are also working under Chinese Communist guards.
3. The construction of the railroad has been hampered by the acute shortage of rails since the lumber-producing areas of Kwangsi are occupied by guerrillas. The Liuchou Military Sub-District of the Kwangsi Military District has assigned two regiments to suppress the guerrillas.
4. It is planned that the Laipin-Nanning section of the railroad will be ready for traffic by the end of the Chinese lunar year.
5. To complete the Laipin-Chennankuan railroad, it will be necessary to build two big bridges, one at Laipin and one at Yingchiang (109- , 24-), 20 secondary bridges, 50 small bridges and 15 water towers. The following materials are needed to complete the railroad: three million cubic meters of earth works, 300,000 cubic meters of stone, 200,000 wooden ties, of which 120,000 have already been collected.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reported the work on this railroad from July to September 1950.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reports that the 2 Division of the Railway Army Group is being used on the project along with two teams for bridge construction and 300 engineers and technicians.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] reports that there is a labor force of 7,000 persons working on the project.

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